



## Guide to the Robert Lang Professional Papers

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note .....	4
Scope and Contents Note .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Names and Subjects .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Lang, Robert, 1959-2021
<b>Title:</b>	Robert Lang Professional Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-01143
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1976 to 2020
<b>Physical Description:</b>	16.71 Cubic Feet (18 boxes, 1 oversized box)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	14.09 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Digital Files (0.026 GB) PDF
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Robert Lang Professional Papers (1976-2020) mainly contain urban planning research and reports from former University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) professor and public policy expert Robert Lang. Materials represent different public policy related projects and issues Lang worked on when he was employed with the Fannie Mae Foundation in Washington, D.C., and Brookings Mountain West and the Lincy Institute at UNLV. Materials also include Lang's teaching files which include course syllabi, class presentation slides, and course readers. Research, notes, and drafts of Lang's books including <i>Boomburbs: The Rise of America's Accidental Cities</i> , <i>Edgeless Cities: Exploring the Elusive Metropolis</i> , and <i>Blue Metros, Red States: The Shifting Urban-Rural Divide in America's Swing States</i> are also represented in the collection. The collection also includes documentation for invited conferences and events documenting different conferences and events, copies of <i>Black's Guide</i> for commercial real estate in the United States.

### Preferred Citation

Robert Lang Professional Papers, 1976-2020. MS-01143. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f15783>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical Note

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Robert Edwin Lang was born on May 28, 1959 in Brooklyn, New York and raised in New Jersey. He attended Rutgers University where he met his wife, Karen Danielsen-Lang whom he married in 1980. At Rutgers, he obtained his Ph.D. in sociology and also worked as a research associate. He also held positions as a Senior Director of urban and metropolitan research at the Fannie Mae Foundation in Washington, D.C. and as a professor and department chair in urban planning at Virginia Tech.

Lang established himself as a public policy expert and authority on urban growth and economic development, particularly amongst America's metropolitan areas. In 2011, he moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to lead two public policy research centers at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV): the newly founded Brookings Mountain West think tank and the Lincy Institute. Lang also became the first Lincy Endowed Professor of Urban Affairs in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs.

Lang's work helped inform public policy issues in Southern Nevada such as developing a medical school at UNLV, building a publicly-funded major-league sports stadium, elevating UNLV to top-tier research status, building out Interstate 11 from Phoenix, Arizona through Las Vegas, and the development of a light rail system. His work directly influenced major economic development projects which led to the launch of UNLV's Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine, building Allegiant Stadium, and expanding the Interstate-11 corridor among other important community needs. Lang also authored several publications including *Edgeless Cities: Exploring the Elusive Metropolis*, *Boomburbs: The Rise of America's Accidental Cities* and *Blue Metros, Red States: The Shifting Urban-Rural Divide in America's Swing States*.

Lang passed away on June 21, 2021 due to complications from cancer. He is survived by his wife, Karen Danielsen-Lang, who is a professor in UNLV's School of Public Policy and Leadership, and son Aidan Robert Lang.

### Sources:

Casey, Juliet V., "UNLV Public Policy Expert Robert Lang Passes Away," UNLV News Center, June 22, 2021. <https://www.unlv.edu/news/article/unlv-public-policy-expert-robert-lang-passes-away>

"Robert Lang, UNLV public policy leader, dies at 62," *Las Vegas Sun*, June 22, 2021. <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2021/jun/22/robert-lang-unlv-public-policy-leader-dies-at-62/>

"Robert Edwin Lang," Dignity Memorial, Accessed September 22, 2023. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/las-vegas-nv/robert-lang-10243051>

Wootton-Greener, Julie, "Robert Lang, who helped reshape Southern Nevada's economy, dies at 62," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, June 22, 2021. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/education/robert-lang-who-helped-reshape-southern-nevadas-economy-dies-at-62-2384308/>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Scope and Contents Note

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The Robert Lang Professional Papers (1976-2020) mainly contain urban planning research and reports from former University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) professor and public policy expert Robert Lang. Materials represent different public policy related projects and issues Lang worked on when he was employed with the Fannie Mae Foundation in Washington, D.C., and Brookings Mountain West and the Lincy Institute at UNLV. Materials also include Lang's teaching files which include course syllabi, class presentation slides, and course readers. Research, notes, and drafts of Lang's books including *Boomburbs: The Rise of America's Accidental Cities*, *Edgeless Cities: Exploring the Elusive Metropolis*, and *Blue Metros, Red States: The Shifting Urban-Rural Divide in America's Swing States* are also represented in the collection. The collection also includes documentation for invited conferences and events documenting different conferences and events, copies of *Black's Guide* for commercial real estate in the United States.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain as they were received.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Karen Danielsen-Lang in 2023; accession number 2023-014.

## Appraisal Note

Acquired by Visual Materials Curator, Aaron Mayes, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings on the history of urban planning and redevelopment in Southern Nevada. The original acquisition included 0.10 linear feet of duplicate reports, student records, and routine personnel files that were removed due to the out-of-scope nature of the materials and to maintain compliance with FERPA. Staff removed these files and securely shredded them.

## Processing Note

In 2023, Tammi Kim reboxed the collection, transferred one digital file off of an optical disc, and created box level summaries and the finding aid in ArchivesSpace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Names and Subjects

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- Suburbs -- United States
- Urban Planning -- Las Vegas -- Nevada
- research (documents)
- faculty papers
- Research institutes
- Brookings Institution
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Lincy Institute

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Research files for <i>Edgeless Cities: Exploring the Elusive Metropolis</i> and for <i>Black's Guides</i> , 1989 to 2005	box 01
<i>Boomburb</i> notes, <i>Edgeless Cities</i> literature review and Rutgers class lecture notes, 1989 to 2003	box 02
Conference, travel, and speaker files; research files and reports on urban planning, 2006	box 03
Notes from invited talks, <i>Urban Affairs</i> review article, <i>Blue Metros</i> , <i>Red States</i> research, 2003 to 2018	box 04
National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) presentation on Northern Virginia, 2003	digital file 00
Research reports and notes, conference and invited talks files, 1999 to 2016	box 05

Conference and invited talks files, Lang travel files, research and reports from Virginia Tech, 2000 to 2008	box 06
Conferences and invited talks and travel files, urban planning course syllabus and presentation slides, <i>Boomburg</i> reviews, Brookings Institute files, 2002 to 2016	box 07
<i>Blue Metros, Red States</i> notes and drafts, various urban planning/economic development reports, Brookings/Lincy reports and files, talks/travel files, Fannie Mae Foundation grant files, 2003 to 2020	box 08
2004-2006 travel files, Urban Land Institute information packets, Lang's notes, <i>Edgeless Cities</i> research files, Rutgers dissertation proposal, 1987 to 2018	box 09
Rutgers and Virginia Tech teaching files, 2006 travel files, 1988 to 2007	box 10
<i>Boomburbs, Edgless Cities</i> research and reports, Lang's course readers from Rutgers University, Fannie Mae Foundation reports, Las Vegas/sun corridor reports, urban development research, 1976 to 2013	box 11
Course readers for Lang's classes at Rutgers University, 1988 to 1992	box 12
Articles that mention Lang and his research, urban planning and housing research and notes, Virginia Tech UAP 5174 course syllabus, 1995 to 2005	box 13
Water research articles, Brookings Institute conferences and research, Las Vegas urban growth research, 2009 to 2020	box 14
Rutgers student evaluations of Lang, dissertation research, <i>Boomburbs</i> research, articles written by Lang, 1994 to 2019	box 15
<i>Blue Metros, Red States</i> notes, urban planning conference programs, housing research, <i>Blacks Guides</i> , and travel maps, 1987 to 2003	box 16
<i>Black's Guide</i> , 1989 to 1998 Physical Description: 17 Items	box 17
<i>Black's Guide</i> , 1998 to 2007 Physical Description: 16 Items	box 18
United States atlas, housing and urban planning related newspaper articles and publications, approximately 1990 to 2019	oversized box 19